

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Katsuhiko SATO et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/367,060 ) Group Art Unit:  
Filed: August 6, 1999 ) Examiner:

National Stage of International Application No. PCT/JP98/05569 under 35 U.S.C. 371, for LASER EMITTING HEAD, LASER-BEAM TRANSMISSION APPARATUS, METHOD OF ADJUSTING LASER-BEAM TRANSMISSION APPARATUS, AND INCORE-STRUCTURE PREVENTIVE-MAINTENANCE/REPAIR APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage in a PCT international application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 8-206869 discloses an under-water laser working method and apparatus for the purpose of prevention preservation of reactor inside structures. A laser beam

having high power and short pulse having a visual wavelength is irradiated to surfaces of the structures immersed in water such as coolant thereby to improve surface stress or remove crack of such as welded portion. The intensity of the laser beam is adjusted by a beam intensity adjusting means.

2. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 10-216983 discloses a laser preservation prevention apparatus utilizing a laser beam of high energy density, and the apparatus comprises a laser oscillator, waveguide means for guiding the laser beam from the laser oscillator, and an irradiation head concentrating the laser beam from the waveguide means and irradiating the laser beam on a portion to be worked. The waveguide means is composed of tubular members of water-tight structure in which reflection members are disposed, and turning means and/or expansion means may be also disposed to the tubular members.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United

States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

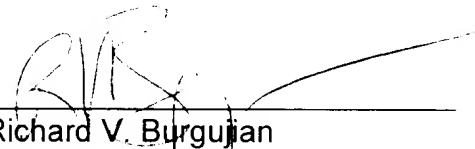
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

  
Richard V. Burgujian  
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Dated: October 22, 1999

Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/rgm